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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT						
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA						
BRAD MARSCHKE, Individually and on Behalf of All Others Similarly Situated,  Plaintiff,  vs.  YOUTUBE, LLC and GOOGLE LLC,  Defendants.	Case No. 3:22-cv-06987-JD  PLAINTIFF'S NOTICE OF CONSENT MOTION AND MOTION FOR LEAVE TO FILE [PROPOSED] SECOND AMENDED CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT; MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES IN SUPPORT THEREOF  Date: July 13, 2023 Time: 10:00 a.m. Courtroom 11, 19th Floor Judge: Honorable James Donato					
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PLAINTIFF'S NOTICE OF CONSENT MOTION AND MOTION FOR LEAVE TO FILE [PROPOSED] SECOND AMENDED CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT – 3:22-cv-06987-JD 4880-1750-6665.v1

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### NOTICE OF MOTION AND MOTION

#### TO: ALL PARTIES AND THEIR COUNSEL OF RECORD

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on July 13, 2023, at 10:00 a.m., before the Honorable James Donato, United States District Court Judge, at the United States District Court, Northern District of California, San Francisco Division, 450 Golden Gate Avenue, Courtroom 11, 19th Floor, San Francisco, California 94102, Plaintiff Brad Marschke ("Plaintiff") hereby brings this consent motion pursuant to Rules 15(a) and 16(b)(4) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure to modify the Court's Scheduling Order (ECF 70) to permit the filing of this motion to amend, and for leave to file the [Proposed] Second Amended Class Action Complaint ("SAC"). This motion is based on this Notice of Consent Motion and Motion, the Memorandum of Points and Authorities in support thereof, the Davidson Declaration and exhibits thereto, all pleadings and papers filed herein, arguments of counsel, and any other matters properly before the Court.

### MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

#### I. INTRODUCTION

With Defendants' consent, Plaintiff seeks leave to amend the operative Amended Complaint (ECF 52) to substitute a new named plaintiff, Nathan Colombo ("Colombo"), for Plaintiff. Plaintiff no longer wishes to pursue his claims against Defendants YouTube, LLC ("YouTube") and Google LLC (collectively, "Defendants") due to the time commitment necessary to participate in the discovery process. Davidson Decl., ¶6. Colombo, however, is committed to vigorously prosecuting the claims in this case, does not believe he has any interests that are antagonistic to the putative Class, is willing and able to act and serve as a fiduciary to the putative Class, and is willing and able to respond to discovery Defendants serve on him and to prepare and sit for a deposition. See Davidson Decl., ¶7.

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A redlined version of the SAC showing the proposed changes is attached to the Declaration of Stuart A. Davidson ("Davidson Declaration" or "Davidson Decl."), filed herewith, as Exhibit 1, and a clean version of the SAC, which will be filed given the Court's leave, is attached thereto as 28 Exhibit 2.

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Other than the facts specific to Colombo, Colombo does not intend to change any other substantive allegations in his proposed SAC. See id. ¶22. For this reason, the parties request that the Court proceed to rule on Defendants' Notice of Motion and Motion to Dismiss Amended Class Action Complaint (ECF 60) ("Motion to Dismiss") – which is fully briefed and pending – and deem that existing Motion to Dismiss as having satisfied Defendants' obligations to answer or otherwise respond to the proposed SAC. In reviewing the previously filed Motion to Dismiss, the 6 parties request that the Court simply substitute the name "Nathan Colombo" for "Brad Marschke," 7 8 wherever that name appears in the Motion to Dismiss, opposition (ECF 71), reply (ECF 79), and 9 the related briefing on Defendants' Request for Judicial Notice ("RJN") (ECF 61, 72, 80). Should 10 the Court so request, the parties will prepare and submit amended briefing to this effect.

This case is at its relative infancy and good cause exists to modify the Scheduling Order to permit the filing of the SAC. Plaintiff's counsel only recently learned that Plaintiff is not able to dedicate the time necessary to participate in the discovery process in this case and, thus, they are timely seeking leave to amend. The relief sought will not unreasonably delay the proceedings. Trial is not scheduled until February 24, 2025 (ECF 70 at 2). Other than additional discovery from Defendants relating to Colombo, Plaintiff's counsel envision no additional discovery from Defendants at this time or as a result of the proposed amendment. While Defendants have served discovery requests on Plaintiff, which Plaintiff's counsel had been working diligently to complete, Plaintiff's counsel have already begun drafting discovery responses on Colombo's behalf to ensure that no significant delay in the discovery process occurs. Further, Plaintiff's counsel appreciate the time and resources the Court may have already spent on an order with respect to Defendants' pending Motion to Dismiss (ECF 60) and RJN (ECF 61). In light of the limited changes in the proposed SAC, only relating to facts specific to Colombo, Plaintiff's counsel respectfully submits that the work the Court may have already expended will not go to waste.

#### II. BRIEF PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND

On August 30, 2022, Plaintiff filed his initial Class Action Complaint and Demand for Jury Trial in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Illinois (ECF 1) ("Complaint"), alleging Defendants' violations of Illinois' Biometric Information Privacy Act ("BIPA"), PLAINTIFF'S NOTICE OF CONSENT MOTION AND MOTION FOR LEAVE TO FILE [PROPOSED] SECOND AMENDED CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT - 3:22-cv-06987-JD - 2 4880-1750-6665.v1

740 ILCS 14/1, et seq. By Joint Stipulation to Transfer Venue Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1404(a) (ECF 25), this case was transferred to this District on November 8, 2022 (ECF 27).

Defendants moved to dismiss the initial Complaint on November 21, 2022 (ECF 43). Prior to filing any opposition to the Motion to Dismiss, Plaintiff filed an Amended Complaint on December 12, 2022 (ECF 52).

Defendants moved to dismiss the Amended Complaint on January 31, 2023 (ECF 60) and requested that the Court take judicial notice of various documents (ECF 61).

The parties filed a Joint Case Management Statement on February 2, 2023 (ECF 63), and the Court entered the Scheduling Order on March 6, 2023 (ECF 70). The Scheduling Order set May 8, 2023 as the parties' deadline to "[a]dd parties or amend pleadings (with the Court's leave, unless permitted as a matter of right under the Fed. R. Civ. P."). *Id.* at 1.

The parties served their initial disclosures under Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(1) on February 10, 2023. Plaintiff served discovery requests on Defendants on March 30, 2023, and Defendants served discovery requests on Plaintiff on April 7, 2023. Davidson Decl., ¶5.

In the process of completing Plaintiff's discovery responses, Plaintiff's counsel learned that Plaintiff is not able to dedicate the time necessary to participate in the discovery process in this case. *Id.* ¶6.

Colombo retained Plaintiff's counsel for the purpose of prosecuting this case on the putative Class' behalf on May 15, 2023. Id. ¶7.

On May 23, 2023, Plaintiff's counsel held a Zoom conference with Defendants' counsel to discuss, among other things, Plaintiff's counsel's desire to file a SAC. Defendants' counsel consented to this motion and do not oppose the filing of the SAC. Davidson Decl., ¶8.

### III. ARGUMENT

## A. Legal Standards

"Requests for leave to amend should be granted with extreme liberality." *Brown v. Stored Value Cards, Inc.*, 953 F.3d 567, 574 (9th Cir. 2020).<sup>2</sup> However, before a court undertakes the Rule 15 analysis in a case like this, where the deadline for filing a motion to amend has passed, it must consider whether there is "good cause" to modify the scheduling order under Rule 16(b)(4). *DRK Photo v. McGraw-Hill Glob. Educ. Holdings*, 870 F.3d 978, 989 (9th Cir. 2017); *see also Joshua v. City & Cnty. of San Francisco*, No. 14-cv-05394-JD, 2015 WL 6152482, at \*1 (N.D. Cal. Oct. 20, 2015). "Rule 16(b)'s good cause standard primarily considers the diligence of the party seeking the amendment." *Johnson v. Mammoth Recreations, Inc.*, 975 F.2d 604, 609 (9th Cir. 1992); *see also Trans Bay Cable LLC v. M/V Ocean Life*, No. 14-cv-04854-JD, 2015 WL 7075618, at \*1 (N.D. Cal. Nov. 13, 2015) "[T]he focus of the [Rule 16] inquiry is upon the moving party's reasons for seeking modification." *Johnson*, 975 F.3d at 609.

On the other hand, "[p]rejudice is the touchstone of the inquiry under rule 15(a)" when a court considers granting leave to amend pleadings, and it is the "consideration of prejudice to the opposing party that carries the greatest weight." *Eminence Cap., LLC v. Aspeon, Inc.*, 316 F.3d 1048, 1052 (9th Cir. 2003). "Absent prejudice, or a strong showing of any of the remaining *Foman* factors, there exists a *presumption* under Rule 15(a) in favor of granting leave to amend." *Id.* (emphasis in original).<sup>3</sup> Rule 15 further directs that a "court should freely give leave when justice so requires." Fed. R. Civ. P. 15(a)(2).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Citations, internal quotations, and footnotes omitted and emphasis added unless otherwise indicated.

The Supreme Court's decision in *Foman v. Davis*, 371 U.S. 178, 182 (1962), suggested the following factors for courts to consider when evaluating motions for leave to amend: undue delay, bad faith by the movant, repeated failure to cure deficiencies previously allowed, undue prejudice to the opposing party if leave were to be granted, and futility of amendment.

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### В. Good Cause to Modify the Scheduling Order Is Shown as Plaintiff Has Diligently Prosecuted This Action, but No Longer Wishes to **Participate**

Good cause exists to modify the case schedule under Rule 16 to allow for the filing of the SAC. "Substitution of unnamed class members for named plaintiffs who fall out of the case because of settlement or other reasons is a common and normally an unexceptionable ('routine') feature of class action litigation . . . in the federal courts[.]" Phillips v. Ford Motor Co., 435 F.3d 785, 787 (7th Cir. 2006). "Where plaintiffs and their counsel move diligently to find replacements, district courts often permit them to do so." Turrey v. Vervent, Inc., No. 20-CV-0697 DMS (AHG), 2021 WL 5042120, at \*2 (S.D. Cal. Oct. 28, 2021). In Aguilar v. Boulder Brands, Inc., for example, the court found:

[T]he weight of authority allows for a sole named plaintiff and proposed class representative to be substituted prior to class certification when the current plaintiff has not settled her claims or had her claims dismissed and intends to become part of the class, such that her claims persist and the case or controversy remains active, and when plaintiff's counsel is able to produce a proposed substitute immediately.

No. 3:12-cv-01862-BTM-BGS, 2014 WL 4352169, at \*9 (S.D. Cal. Sept. 2, 2014). Here, class certification briefing does not commence until May 2024, Plaintiff is not settling his claims against Defendants, nor has the Court dismissed his claims, and Plaintiff's counsel produced a proposed substitute – Colombo – immediately after learning of Plaintiff's interest in withdrawing as a named plaintiff in this case. Up until this point, there had been no indication that Plaintiff would not fully participate in this case. See Bradley v. T-Mobile US, Inc., No. 17-cv-07232-BLF, 2019 WL 2358972, at \*2 (N.D. Cal. June 4, 2019). Thus, good cause clearly exists to modify the Scheduling Order to permit the filing of a SAC after the deadline to amend passed, which, in any event, only occurred a few weeks ago, but was still before Plaintiff had indicated his desire to withdraw.

Moreover, Plaintiff has pursued the rest of this case as diligently as he is currently seeking amendment. See S.F. Baykeeper v. City of Sunnyvale, No. 5:20-cv-00824-EJD, 2022 WL 1914313, at \*2 (N.D. Cal. June 3, 2022). Plaintiff served discovery on Defendants shortly after the parties met and conferred under Rule 26(f) to prepare a Joint Case Management Statement, his counsel have been diligently preparing responses to Defendants' discovery requests, and they have taken no action that could suggest they have engaged in any delay of these proceedings. Notably, PLAINTIFF'S NOTICE OF CONSENT MOTION AND MOTION FOR LEAVE TO FILE [PROPOSED] SECOND AMENDED CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT - 3:22-cv-06987-JD - 5 4880-1750-6665.v1

this case, and seeks *no* other modification to the case schedule.

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## C. Justice Requires Leave to Amend Be Granted to Substitute Named Plaintiffs

Rule 15 directs that a "court should freely give leave when justice so requires." Fed. R.

Here, absent leave to substitute Colombo as named plaintiff in this action, putative Class

Civ. P. 15(a)(2). "[S]ubstitution of new named plaintiffs is freely allowed to protect the rights of

putative class members when the original named Plaintiff is no longer adequate to represent the

Class." Osuegbu v. AMN Healthcare, Inc., No. 3:16-cv-02816 JCS, 2016 WL 11735439, at \*2

members' claims under the BIPA will not be pursued and, thus, they will be substantially

prejudiced. Colombo is ready, willing, and able to commit to representing the putative Class

through discovery, class certification, summary judgment, and trial. See Davidson Decl., ¶7. The

(N.D. Cal. Aug. 25, 2016) (citing *Wade v. Kirkland*, 118 F.3d 667, 670 (9th Cir. 1997)).

Plaintiff brings this motion shortly after learning of Plaintiff's desire to no longer participate in

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Court should allow him to do so.

15 16 D. Defendants Will Suffer No Prejudice if the Court Grants Plaintiff Leave to Amend the Complaint

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Prejudice is the most important factor in determining whether leave to amend should be granted under Rule 15, and it is Defendants' burden to demonstrate they will face not just inconvenience or expense but undue prejudice. *Eminence*, 316 F.3d at 1052. "Prejudice to the defendant occurs where amendment would increase the burden of necessary future discovery, or require[] that the defendant develop entirely different defenses." *Buchanan v. Tata Consultancy Servs., Ltd.*, No. 15-cv-01696-YGR, 2017 WL 6611653, at \*6 (N.D. Cal. Dec. 27, 2017). Defendants will not be prejudiced by the filing of the SAC and, in fact, they consent to this motion. The SAC adds no new defendants, no new causes of action, and no new substantive allegations other than relating specifically to Colombo. Thus, Defendants' pending Motion to Dismiss and RJN (ECF 60-61, 71-72, 79-80) will apply in substantively all respects to the SAC as it does to the current Amended Complaint. So, too, will any work the Court has already expended drafting orders relating to those motions.

## 1. Granting Plaintiff Leave to Amend Will Not Materially Change the Scope of Discovery in This Case

Permitting filing of the SAC will not materially change the amount of discovery in this case. Discovery targeted to Defendants has already been served, and Plaintiff does not presently intend to serve additional discovery, except discovery specifically relating to Colombo, until Plaintiff's counsel has had an opportunity to review Defendants' forthcoming document production(s), interrogatory answers, and responses to requests for admission. As for Defendants' discovery requests served on Plaintiff, Plaintiff's counsel has already begun in earnest to complete responses for Colombo and collect Colombo's responsive documents.

Moreover, as noted above, Plaintiff's legal theories or factual allegations, beyond those directly relating to the named plaintiff, are not changing in the SAC; Plaintiff only seeks to amended the SAC to substitute named plaintiffs.

## 2. The SAC Will Not Delay the Proceedings or Extend the Remaining Deadlines in the Scheduling Order

The filing of the SAC would not require any additional changes to the Scheduling Order. *S.F. Baykeeper*, 2022 WL 1914313, at \*3. Moreover, the deadline to amend the pleadings just passed a few weeks ago, and Plaintiff brings this motion shortly after learning of Plaintiff's desire not to participate in discovery, each of which militates against a finding of delay of the proceedings.

Admittedly, the filing of the SAC does ordinarily moot Defendants' pending Motion to Dismiss and RJN (ECF 60-61). However, the parties have agreed that, because the proposed SAC only changes the names of the plaintiffs and not any other substantive allegation, the Court may still rule on the Motion to Dismiss and RJN. Moreover, discovery will continue, and no other changes to the Scheduling Order are required or sought.

## E. There Is No Evidence of Undue Delay, Bad Faith, or Repeated Failure to Cure Deficiencies by Prior Amendments

For the reasons explained above, Defendants will not be prejudiced if Plaintiff is granted leave to file the SAC and, in fact, consent to the amendment. There has been no undue delay. In PLAINTIFF'S NOTICE OF CONSENT MOTION AND MOTION FOR LEAVE TO FILE [PROPOSED]

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any event, even "[d]elay alone does not provide sufficient grounds for denying leave to amend." Hurn v. Ret. Fund Tr. of the Plumbing, Heating & Piping Ind. of S. Calif., 648 F.2d 1252, 1254 (9th Cir. 1981); see also Roling v. E\*Trade Sec. LLC, 279 F.R.D. 522, 525 (N.D. Cal. 2012) ("[W]hether Plaintiffs unduly delayed is not dispositive because undue delay by itself is not enough to bar an amendment. The critical issues instead are futility and prejudice.").

There is also no bad faith or dilatory motive in Plaintiff seeking leave to amend. For the reasons explained above, Plaintiff is filing this motion diligently; the delay, if any, resulting from filing the SAC will be minimal, if any. Additionally, this is not a case where there has been a repeated failure to cure deficiencies by amendments previously allowed.

#### F. Plaintiff's Amendment Is Not Futile

Finally, the SAC does not suffer from futility of amendment. Amendment is not futile so long as the complaint "alleges a cognizable legal theory[.]" United States v. United Healthcare Ins. Co., 848 F.3d 1161, 1184 (9th Cir. 2016). The allegations here are that Defendants violated the BIPA through its Face Blur tool and Thumbnail generator on their YouTube platform. The Court has not yet ruled on the sufficiency of Plaintiff's allegations. Thus, it would be improper to find that the SAC is futile before first reaching a decision on the sufficiency of Plaintiff's BIPA allegations.

#### IV. **CONCLUSION**

For the reasons stated above, Plaintiff requests that the Court: (a) modify the Scheduling Order to permit the filing of this motion; (b) grant Plaintiff leave to amend the pleading and file the SAC; and (c) grant such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

DATED: June 8, 2023	ROBBINS GELLER RUDMAN & DOWD LLP STUART A. DAVIDSON (pro hac vice) ALEXANDER C. COHEN (pro hac vice)

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